

An Essay  
On  
The Homoeopathic  
Law of Cure.

Submitted to the Faculty  
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By  
Vilas Griffith  
Pa.

*By whom* The  
Homoeopathic Law of Cure

Life, — its origin, its changes  
and its end, — has been since  
the creation of man, a theme  
on which philosophers have  
loved to dwell; — whether  
wandering over the star-lit  
plains of Chaldea, or gazing  
on the Egyptian pyramids  
yet newly built, or walking amid  
the shady groves of Academus; — all  
alike have found in life the topic  
of their most profound discourses.

The knowledge of the world,  
like that of an individual, is a work  
of slow and gradual accumulation

By observation we have acquired ideas of matter and ideas of spirit, and consider them as principles which are inconsistent with something else, as heat and cold, light and darkness, sickness and health. But between the laws which govern matter and the laws which govern spirit, human intellect has never yet discovered a perfect analogy. That there is an analogy and that these two systems of laws are absolutely harmonious is a fact proved by the existence of every human being.

In what this analogy consists, is not yet revealed to man, we know its existence only by its effects,

and we call it by the vague  
and indefinite term of vitality.  
The human body is of itself a  
single organization, subject to  
one common law of continuity,  
dissolution and decay;—each  
part being identified with all  
the other parts. But this material  
body is only the representative of  
the vital power within; which  
in health maintains and controls  
all its parts in harmony. <sup>law is</sup>  
Without this power the organism  
is incapable either of action, sen-  
sation or preservation. <sup>of nature</sup>  
Both in the outer and the  
inner world, agents antag-  
onistic to health are found.

The dewy evenings or the sultry mornings may bear on its wings invisible poison.

Food and drink may convey unsuspected drugs. The rays of the sun it may exhaust the strength or inflame the brain.

Or fare to the enemies of health within less active or less efficient.

The finely organized body when continually undergoing change and none of all its parts a law is at work which would impel it to dissolution removal of

But the operations of nature are all governed by fixed laws, which we may observe and study. Whenever the dynamic

the sciences of medicine must be to a great extent discovered and established by actual experiment; but, as in all sciences, so in this, experiment and logical inference must be intimately associated. Any system of medical practice which cannot bear the test of reason deserves not the name of science. It was the erratic modes of cure adopted by medical practitioners of the eighteenth century that led Hahnemann, the illustrious founder of homoeopathy, to institute a series of

experiments in order to ascertain the specific action of drugs, and thus to commence the construction of an entirely new Materia Medica. At the commencement of these investigations he discovered that the symptoms of disease were counteracted successfully by the remedies which manifest similar symptoms on the healthy person, &c. But this, though the first law brought to light, was not destined to be afterward considered the most remarkable. The fact that

a small quantity is even more powerful than a large quantity, at first taxed the credulity and afterward excited the astonishment of the medical world.

The principle of specification is also inseparably connected with the homoeopathic law of cure. These three principles form the foundation of a complete science; — the only rational and scientific theory of cure, *first causes*. Let us consider the practical application of these three principles as separately infallible rules.

The Specification, or individualization of the total group of symptoms and individualization of a medicine which is capable of producing corresponding symptoms, in order to

Specification consists, first, in observing every symptom, separately and combined with all the rest, &c. This, from principle, is founded upon the simple truth that like results are produced by like causes, ~~and~~ Results are manifest, causes are occult. of real

By obtaining the totality of symptoms of disease, we are by an infallible rule-

educes by observation of the facts  
of nature, — led to the adoption  
of the precise remedy needed.  
As the artist who would paint  
correctly, must mark each  
individual feature in order to  
complete the image; so must  
the physician treat, — not the dis-  
ease as such; but the symptoms  
which singly and combined, form  
the true image of the disease.  
To call a disease by a name  
avails nothing positive; it can  
only assist in generalizing:  
but in the treatment of real  
symptoms we want, not general  
ization but specification. Similar  
So to treat symptoms is to reach

specific objects and thus to obliterate all that is desirable to be removed; Secondly; after discovering the individual features, the totality of which constitutes the image in the one case, then is to be applied the remedy, the specific features of which make up the image in the corresponding case; - symptom answering to symptom, - the complete likeness directing with unerring accuracy to the cure.

II. Similia similibus curantur, The medicine produces an artificial disease similar to the natural one, and as no two

similar diseases can occupy the system at the same time, the stronger or artificial predominates and a cure is effected. An artificial disease is more powerful than a natural one simply because the parts of the system are in a diseased state and are consequently exceedingly sensitive to the subtle touch of the remedy. The eye in a healthful condition can endure a flood of light without the slightest shrinking. — in an inflamed condition even the twilight is intolerable. In the treatment of symptoms those similia must be observed

which are specific, - not general. - characteristic not vague and unimportant. The key symptoms lead to the specific remedy. the remaining symptoms are such as may be found in an indefinite number of diseased conditions and may be developed in the use of morbid agents generally.

III. Potentization of medicines by which they are made to have a more penetrating influence upon the vital force, turning the current to healthful action.

Remedies are the more powerful, not in proportion as they are increased in quantity, but as they are

made more penetrating in  
their particles. The object then  
of doses of medicine which have  
commonly been called small,  
is not dilution in itself, but  
potentization. It is evident  
that great effects are produced  
by what to the uneducated mind  
would be regarded as diminu-  
tive agencies; as in the cases  
of contagious diseases, the  
atmosphere being filled with the  
invisible, yet most subtle  
and powerful miasmas.  
Or also in the whole system of  
vegetable germ-life, the micro-  
scopic multitudes of seeds that  
teem in the earth; the various

forms of vegetable growth contain within themselves the two powers that clothe our globe in luxuriant growth and wealth of beauty, at the use of higher hydrostatic pressure an inch of diameter may be made to counteract a surface indefinitely extended over the sphere of electricity flashes its results around the globe. It is the utterly impossible for the mind of man to conceive of the almost infinite minuteness of an atom. Philosophers have long since despaired of reaching the ultimate particles of matter. sciences One grain of a medicinal stuff;

Substance even at the third potentization would cover two square miles of area. It has been proved beyond successful contradiction that by the use of higher potentization ranging from the 200<sup>th</sup> to 7000<sup>th</sup> according to circumstances the additional element of penetration and power over disease is very greatly increased. Matter is indestructable, and however far the subdivision be extended, every drop of the alcohol used as a vehicle must be pervaded with the infinitesimal atoms of the drug.

Thus it is evident that Homeopathy is a science consistent and harmonious in itself;

while its application, its  
results; and its success  
appeal to the judgment of  
an unprejudiced world.

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Homœopathic Medical College

of  
Pennsylvania

the first day of January

one thousand Eight hundred and

Sixty nine

Witnessed by  
B. Lippincott

of  
New Jersey